

## **APPENDIX I**

### **Actions of Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015 to be initiated and/or progressed 2015**

**Note:** In March 2011 the Built Heritage functions transferred from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The review by the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism in Action 28 is now being undertaken by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

<b>Research</b>	
<b>Action</b>	
<b>1</b>	<p>In order to develop a robust framework for an evidence-based policy on architecture into the future the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will convene a built environment research committee and initiate discussions with relevant parties to guide the Department in formulating a research strategy for architecture and the built environment. In order to assist with the formulation of the strategy the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. convene a research colloquium in collaboration with the Office of Public Works and other relevant parties to examine the issue of research funding as applied to the built environment;</li><li>ii. commission a research scoping study to identify the range and priorities for architectural research to support the Policy on Architecture. The study should include identification of the bodies that have funded research in architecture and potential sponsors of architectural research. The study should associate the research priorities with specific funding programmes, identify where adjustments may be required and include a gap analysis leading to the identification of a number of definition studies in areas of significance to the Policy. The study should set out the research strategy required to support the Policy on Architecture and recommend appropriate management and funding mechanisms; and</li><li>iii. commission a research study into aspects of the Irish climate that specifically impact on requirements for building performance to be then incorporated into the regulatory framework.</li></ul>

	<p>The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will oversee the implementation of the research strategy and undertake where appropriate the definition studies identified in the research scoping study. The definition studies will identify the most urgent research tasks and information requirements.</p> <p>The research scoping study will pay particular attention to the following: the criteria for exemplars of best practice with regard to sustainable “place-making” ; building energy performance and whole life-cycle costing; environmental performance of building forms and typologies in high-density design and construction; the potential for all forms of construction systems to deliver higher sustainability standards, and factors affecting the social sustainability of settlements. This scoping study will take account of the range of research currently being undertaken in other European countries.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p>The Office of Public Works will undertake materials research to support State practice and technical advice in the area of building conservation, maintenance, and repair.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p>In order to strengthen the evidence base for policy, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works will co-ordinate post-occupancy evaluation studies of buildings procured through direct State funding and publish the outcomes.</p> <p>The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Office of Public Works will establish within their procurement provisions mechanisms for data gathering and analysis on schemes procured through public funding and Public Private Partnership.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p>The Office of Public Works, in collaboration with academic institutions and other state-supported educational institutions, will identify areas where there is need for new design insight and will sponsor design research initiatives in partnership with the construction and development sectors, and disseminate the outcomes.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p>The Arts Council, in collaboration with the Department of Education and Science, the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and other relevant parties, will establish a working group to carry out the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. collate and assess the experience of existing schemes aimed at</li> </ol>

	<p>developing appreciation and awareness of the built environment, and of other related schemes initiated under this Policy, in order to ensure the optimum use of resources in support of the Policy and to provide operational feedback and intellectual continuity into the future;</p> <p>ii. sponsor a research project to consider national and international models of special interest collaboration with schools, in order to advance aims of the Policy;</p> <p>iii. identify partners that can offer sustainable, funded support mechanisms for schemes involving architects working with teachers and pupils in schools.</p> <p>Any recommendations or outcomes following establishment of such a working group referred to above, must have regard both to their resource implications for the Arts Council, and also to the fact that the budgetary resources likely to be available over the lifetime of this policy to the Minister for Education and Science for development of services in the education sector may be allocated to fund existing policy commitments.</p>
<b>Quality</b>	
<b>Action</b>	
<b>6</b>	<p>To underline the importance of architectural quality as a cornerstone of national policy on the built environment the title of Principal Architect in the Office of Public Works will be changed to State Architect and Principal Architect in the Office of Public Works and the role will be strengthened to include:</p> <p>i. advising on the implementation of the Architecture Policy Actions;</p> <p>ii. contributing to the Government Construction Contracts Committee (GCCC) to developing procurement and contracting policies in support of architectural quality in State funded projects;</p> <p>iii. consultee regarding legislation and regulations affecting quality in architecture and the built environment;</p> <p>iv. consultee regarding the design quality of all infrastructural programmes;</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v. advising the relevant Departments of the accumulated experience and expertise in the public service and of programmes that will ensure that the care of monuments, and the conservation, restoration and re-use of historic buildings is fully exploited;</li> <li>vi. acting as a point of reference and advice in the dissemination of knowledge and expertise.</li> </ul>
<b>7</b>	<p>In order to advance the quality of the designed environment, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, in collaboration with the City and County Managers Association, will consider the benefits of each county/city council submitting plans for the provision of in-house architectural services, headed at the level of City or County Architect whose responsibilities may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the promotion of architectural quality within the built environment;</li> <li>ii. specific engagement with infrastructure and public realm projects;</li> <li>iii. engagement with NGO and private sector activities in the promotion of architecture and architectural heritage, including exhibitions and publications and local awards schemes in order to promote architecture among the wider public.</li> </ul> <p>The plans submitted will include the deployment of architects and other related professionals including architectural conservation officers to ensure that architectural conservation issues are proactively addressed. This may also include proposals to regionalise specific expertise in creating efficiencies given the current economic difficulties and limited resources available in this regard.</p>
<b>8</b>	<p>The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will require County and City Development Board strategies to incorporate aims and actions on architectural quality.</p>
<b>9</b>	<p>The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works will, in accordance with the requirements of the Capital Works Management Framework:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. investigate appropriate incentives for best practice in regard to future-proofing of buildings. The objective is that buildings be designed for resilience, and in terms of energy as net resource generating environments;</li> <li>ii. develop relevant guidance documents on key sustainability criteria. Such documents will have wide application, for example as design aids and in evaluating applications for new building developments in order to ensure compliance with their objectives on sustainability, functionality and value for money as referred to above and as benchmarks against which to assess competition entries. The future adaptability and the ease to which the materials used could be recycled at the end of their lifespan are among the factors to be considered;</li> <li>iii. ensure that buildings procured in all public building contracts are designed for ease of maintenance and upgrade. In support of this action the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works, in conjunction with the Government Construction Contracts Committee and with the assistance of relevant agencies will prepare a guidance document on the application of whole life costing in building projects in the State.</li> </ul>
<b>10</b>	<p>In order to further promote the achievement of quality, the Government will implement the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The Office of Public Works will contribute to the work of the Government Contracts Construction Committee in developing guidelines for quality in architecture and the built environment for all procurement by contracting authorities. Such guidance should apply also to leasing/rental of property and development undertaken through Public Private Partnership (PPP);</li> <li>ii. the Office of Public Works will contribute to the work of the Government Construction Contracts Committee by conducting a review of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the effectiveness of current procurement procedures with respect to architectural conservation projects,</li> <li>and</li> <li>b) thresholds for architectural projects established under provisions for PPP projects;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>iii. the Office of Public Works will report to the Government Construction Contracts Committee on the effectiveness of the current percentage ratings for architectural quality in the assessment process for Public Private Partnership projects.</p>
<b>11</b>	<p>The Government departments with responsibility for building procurement will undertake to educate, inform and communicate with the public, the building industry and professions, by demonstrating and achieving exemplary and sustainable practice in the architectural commissioning of works and services, and by resourcing their own structures and services with the necessary professional support to maintain, improve and enlarge this work and expertise.</p>
<b>12</b>	<p>To ensure that the State can benefit from the diversity of available talent, the Government will implement the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the Office of Public Works in consultation with the relevant authorities such as the National Development Finance Agency, will broaden the scope of procurement including through Public Private Partnerships;</li> <li>ii. the Office of Public Works in consultation with the Government Construction Contracts Committee, will ensure that procurement policy encourages participation of architectural practices at all scales, and supports coalitions and collaboration between smaller practices as a way of achieving diversity with critical mass. In this regard criteria for participation in procurement generally will be reviewed to enable the participation of practices at all scales;</li> <li>iii. the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, in consultation with the Government Construction Contracts Committee will seek to increase the range of areas in which architectural competitions are deployed.</li> </ul>
<b>13</b>	<p>The Arts Council will continue to provide opportunities for creative and critical explorations within the field of architecture and in supporting the development of critical practice within the profession.</p>
	<p>The work of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) in identifying</p>

<b>14</b>	structures of special interest and the Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes survey will be continued and completed under the aegis of the NIAH.
<b>15</b>	The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will consider creating, maintaining and making publicly accessible a central database of structures subject to legislative protection, beginning with those protected under the National Monuments Acts and under Section 10 of the Heritage Acts. In consultation with planning authorities, consideration will be given to extending the database to include buildings protected under the Planning and Development Acts.
<b>16</b>	The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will issue guidelines on how older, traditionally constructed and historic buildings can contribute to a reduction in the consumption of fossil fuels and carbon dioxide emissions while respecting their built fabric and cultural significance. This action may take cognisance of any data on building performance derived from buildings procured and maintained through State funds and will ensure appropriate dissemination of such information
<b>17</b>	The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works, in collaboration with the Heritage Council and a number of Local Authorities will, subject to available funding, initiate a pilot scheme in preventive maintenance for buildings in their ownership. If successful, and in consideration of the value for money aspects, a scheme may be extended progressively nationwide, beginning with the larger urban authorities. It may be appropriate to develop a scheme in time for older buildings in private ownership.
<b>18</b>	Building on existing initiatives, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, in consultation with the Department of Finance, will carry out an analysis of the operation and efficiency of existing grant-aid and tax relief programmes supporting architectural heritage protection. The analysis will examine the range of initiatives supported since 2000 and recommend how the experience gained can be best utilised in the interests of heritage protection.
<b>19</b>	The State is committed to the documenting and publication of its work in protection of the historic landscape and built environment. The Department of the Environment,

	Heritage and Local Government in collaboration with the Office of Public Works and the Heritage Council will sponsor conservation conferences on practice and research in the area of building and landscape conservation of which the outcomes will be published. The conferences, which will be multi-disciplinary in scope, will be guided by a Scientific Committee established for the purpose.
<b>20</b>	<p>Government Departments and state agencies with responsibility for building procurement and heritage protection will be encouraged to avail of relevant partnerships established with educational institutions, professional bodies, the Institute of Public Administration and others in the development of suitable in-house and externally provided Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to address skills needs. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government can facilitate such objectives by promoting specific multi-disciplinary programmes, and consider the benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. reciprocal inclusion of sister disciplines on juries for local and regional awards schemes;</li> <li>ii. supporting the development of joint initiatives and activities such as lectures, site visits and professional social events at local and regional level;</li> <li>iii. acknowledging good practice in planning advice and planning authorities who take a proactive stance in favour of quality in architecture, by such measures as including a citation for the planner or planning authority in architectural awards schemes and establishing specific categories in planning awards schemes to reward the integration of architectural quality with good quality planning.</li> </ul>
<b>Planning and Urban Design</b>	
<b>Action</b>	
<b>21</b>	<p>The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government under the provisions of the Planning Acts, will require that development plans and local area plans demonstrate compliance with key design criteria set out in its guidance documents: Delivering Homes, Sustaining Communities; Quality Housing for Sustainable Communities; Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities; Sustainable Rural Housing – Guidelines for Planning Authorities; and</p>



	<p>Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas with the associated Urban Design Manual: A Best Practice Guide. In support, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will continue to advance such objectives under the Developing Areas initiative and will also publish supplementary guidance on sustainable place-making drawing from examples of validated best practice in creating and maintaining integrated, sustainable places, in terms of architectural and urban design quality as well as social engagement.</p>
<b>22</b>	<p>To assist in meeting sustainability objectives public authorities, assisted by the development and implementation of sustainable planning by local authorities, will be encouraged to introduce the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. prioritise assessment of their existing land holdings including redundant and underused building stock in terms of its economic and social value. In deciding on future development, public authorities will be asked to encourage adaptive re-use of buildings that would be compatible with their character and significance;</li> <li>ii. develop their sustainability policies and objectives to specifically address the re-use of the existing building stock;</li> <li>iii. prepare a conservation policy for buildings of architectural heritage value in their care and/or ownership and within this framework to prepare a conservation plan for individual places as appropriate. Such policies should be based on an inventory of their historic building stock and make provision for ongoing conservation and maintenance programmes in fulfilment of the policy objectives;</li> <li>iv. with regard to developments on publicly-owned brown field sites, consideration will be given to measures which take account of existing material resources on the site and the potential for this material to be reused. Such an account should form part of the assessment of the site potential of the land, and its potential for planning purposes.</li> </ul>
<b>23</b>	<p>The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will consider the issue of guidelines on the assessment and adaptive re-use of existing buildings in public authority and private ownership, and on the disposal of historic buildings by public authorities.</p>

<p><b>24</b></p>	<p>The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will consider extending its existing guidance by publishing guidelines for local authorities regarding the role of existing buildings in promoting a sustainable environment. The guidelines will recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. where demolition of existing buildings and ground works is proposed in whole or in part, the application submitted should include an audit of the existing materials on site and a method statement regarding salvage, reuse and disposal;</li> <li>ii. that, as part of a regular review, planning authorities should consider mechanisms to encourage the adaptive re-use of existing buildings.</li> </ul>
<p><b>25</b></p>	<p>The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will consider extending eligibility for grant aid, subject to approval by the Department of Finance, for conservation and repair works within architectural conservation areas and review measures to provide additional support to planning authorities in the preparation of such areas.</p>
<p><b>26</b></p>	<p>The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will liaise with the Building Regulations Advisory Body and relevant professional institutes with regard to providing detailed advice on best practice on the application of Building Regulations to older/traditionally-built buildings with a view to appropriate alteration.</p>
<p><b>27</b></p>	<p>The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will liaise with relevant groups to derive guidelines with respect to a number of key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. in collaboration with the relevant professional institutes, setting generally applicable performance criteria in relation to sustainability, under the inter-linked headings of environmental, economic and social criteria, taking account of best international practice;</li> <li>ii. evaluating the criteria for high and large scale buildings in urban areas and their impact on historic urban areas.</li> </ul> <p>High quality architecture offers opportunities to adapt the experience and lessons of</p>

	<p>past rural building design to the current need for buildings to be carbon efficient while making the most effective use of the natural advantages that rural locations may offer for sustainable design. Contemporary architecture and design also have an important role to play in the design of rural buildings that make the best use of their location, while still blending into and enhancing the natural landscape.</p>
<b>Awareness and Implementation</b>	
<b>Action</b>	
<b>28</b>	<p>Through the implementation mechanisms established for this Policy on Architecture, the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism will review, in liaison with the range of appropriate cultural institutions, whether and to what extent, the promotion of architecture could be further developed as part of their individual briefs.</p>
<b>29</b>	<p>The Office of Public Works, Departments of State, public authorities and other agencies with responsibility for the procurement of buildings will ensure that public building projects are published and/or exhibited in an accessible manner for the general public. Review of such exhibitions will help develop understanding of architectural quality.</p>
<b>30</b>	<p>The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, in consultation with the Arts Council and the Heritage Council, will develop an approach to fostering an understanding of architecture as an art form and as a component of our shared cultural inheritance by including an explicit architectural and built environment focus within the briefs of Local Authority Arts, Architectural Conservation and Heritage Officers.</p>
<b>31</b>	<p>In pursuit of its remit to develop awareness of the architectural heritage, the Heritage Council in collaboration with the Irish Architectural Archive will commission and publish a guide, aimed at diverse audiences, to the source material for architectural history in Ireland.</p>
<b>32</b>	<p>FÁS, in association with its partners and the Construction Industry Federation and relevant education bodies will undertake the following actions:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. enhance training in upgrading, repair and maintenance of existing buildings in line with good conservation practice;</li> <li>ii. ensure that skills appropriate to sustainable energy construction and conservation technologies are developed in apprentice training courses;</li> <li>iii. invite participation of architecture schools in preparing an architectural awareness module for inclusion in Phase 2 of construction apprentice training courses. The module will be introduced as each course comes up for review.</li> </ul>
<b>33</b>	<p>In order to advance public engagement with architecture, the Arts Council, in collaboration with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, will undertake the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. commission a feasibility study into the provision of venues for architecture in Ireland. The study will examine existing comparable countries where such a resource exists while investigating the needs of Ireland in the context of all agencies, public and private, working within the area;</li> <li>ii. as a contribution to this study, within the next five years, establish pilot architectural exhibitions/venues and monitor the audience response, using the findings as base information for the study;</li> <li>iii. further develop the network of existing venues such as City and County halls, libraries, galleries, theatres and arts centres throughout the country to support an ongoing programme of architectural events and exhibitions.</li> </ul>
<b>34</b>	<p>The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works will support initiatives developed by the Irish Architecture Foundation to further the aims of this Policy, including development of a virtual interface as a portal for programmes and initiatives in architecture, design and the wider built environment.</p>
<b>35</b>	<p>The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will</p>

	<p>recommend that local authorities assist citizens and promote architectural quality by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. producing exhibition material and publishing relevant and key public building projects within their area as an integral part of the procurement process and ensuring that this policy is incorporated in development plans, heritage plans and arts plans;</li> <li>ii. maintaining user-friendly websites, with links to portal sites through which more extensive access to architectural and built environment information and advice can be found.</li> </ul>
<b>36</b>	<p>With regard to primary and second level schools and teacher training institutions, the Department of Education and Science will complete the work in progress of identifying curriculum strands/areas across a range of subjects which can facilitate teaching and learning about architecture and the built environment and undertake the following supporting actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. encourage the use of the local environment as a location for learning, to suit the specific circumstance of individual schools and promote the adoption of such practices by Boards of Management;</li> <li>ii. identify, together with the teacher professional networks, the support services and other organisations, readily available teaching resources which support teaching and learning about the built environment and which support learning in curriculum strands/areas identified in the research conducted under Action on Architecture 2002-2005. This information should be made available through the Virtual Architecture Centre or another existing website;</li> <li>iii. facilitate, in co-operation with the relevant organisations, an annual, task-based architecture awards scheme for schools incorporating a range of categories covering various age groups and subjects at primary and post-primary level. The task brief in each award category will provide close links to the respective curriculum element and subject syllabus. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, in collaboration with the Department of Education and Science, will provide support for the competitions by means of the internet, including appropriate background information and advice and guidance on the organisation and completion of the tasks;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iv. in collaboration with relevant organisations including the Arts Council, and as resources allow, establish an 'Architect in Residence Scheme' in teacher training colleges associated with the education of teachers of Construction Studies, Home Economics, Art, and Architectural Technology;</li> <li>v. The Department of Education and Science will facilitate, as resources allow, in collaboration with the Arts Council, an 'Architect in Schools' scheme, to enhance architectural awareness in the participating schools.</li> </ul>
<b>37</b>	<p>The Department of Education and Science will consult with relevant stakeholders and the Higher Education Authority with a view to convening a colloquium involving directors of architectural programmes and teacher training institutions and teacher professional networks to explore how schools of architecture could collaborate to form a continual process through primary and post primary education. Potential collaborations will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. involvement in the development of teaching and learning resources and projects. Priority should be given to the development of a new resource for second level students that would build on "Shaping Space" and have a significant web-based aspect;</li> <li>ii. summer courses for primary/secondary teachers. Utilising the existing Summer Course model for primary teachers, the Department of Education and Science will seek to put a new web-based resource programme of activities and support materials in place;</li> <li>iii. involvement in a consultancy role with Support Services responsible for the provision of professional development for teachers of the revised Leaving Certificate syllabi in Art and Architectural Technology in second level schools;</li> <li>iv. The Department of Education and Science, in collaboration with the Higher Education Authority, the Higher Education and Training Awards Council and the Further Education and Training Awards Council will circulate all third level colleges to encourage outreach activities by hosting seminars, exhibitions and providing a range of part-time and evening courses related to the built and natural environment for people of all ages.</li> </ul>

38	<p>The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will convene a colloquium involving the City and County Managers Association, the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland and directors of architectural programmes to examine how schools of architecture could contribute to addressing built environment design challenges at local level.</p>
39	<p>The Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government will convene in association with the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland and the Higher Education Authority a colloquium on the subject of education and training in urban and landscape design, inviting professional associations and directors of third level design programmes. The purpose is to explore opportunities for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. initiatives that address the spectrum of environmental design challenges: advanced level multi-disciplinary design studies, integrating three-dimensional space-making with land use, transportation and economic development, and modelling with a focus on urban management;</li> <li>ii. incorporation of urban and designed landscape studies into courses that deal with the built environment, and into programmes of continuing professional development;</li> <li>iii. enhancing education programmes for built environment professions to ensure that building resilience becomes a driving objective, fostering appropriate design responses and construction technologies.</li> </ul>
40	<p>The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works will manage public buildings so as to facilitate engagement of the public with the building itself. Informational material will be introduced into public buildings to promote and explain their functioning, what they offer to the public in terms of public space, access, facilities, exhibitions etc, and their energy and environmental performance. Where possible, and subject to site conditions and cost, public building projects under construction should have a safe public viewing area, capable of accommodating a group, at the perimeter of the site complete with information panels/screens to facilitate public engagement with the project.</p>

<b>41</b>	Building on the success of the Green-Schools programme the Department of Education and Science will initiate a scheme, where possible, that provides information on the ongoing environmental performance of school buildings in use.
<b>42</b>	The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works will sponsor television programmes that explain the process, from concept to execution of achieving good architecture, which are intelligible and accessible for the general public.
<b>43</b>	<p>The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will assign responsibility for coordination of the implementation of this Policy. An implementation programme and a timetable for delivery in consultation with the principal stakeholders will be drawn up, and a progress report will be prepared annually for the Minister. An immediate focus will be the research strategy at the core of the Policy Actions. The Department will consider the benefits of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. co-ordinating the establishment and operation of a forum chaired by the State Architect (Principal Architect, Office of Public Works) and including the relevant principal or senior professional advisers of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in addition to representatives of the public and private sectors. The purpose of the forum will be as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) to oversee implementation of the actions of this Policy directed towards the incorporation of quality and sustainability criteria in state-funded building projects;</li> <li>b) to co-ordinate the implementation of actions relating to the integration of national strategies, regional and local housing strategies, macro framework planning and local urban design initiatives, set out in this Policy on Architecture 2009-2015. A key focus will be the co-ordinated qualitative delivery of sustainable infrastructure and built environment in developing areas;</li> <li>c) to examine and monitor ongoing policy development and its implications arising from policy developments at EU level for all matters related to the quality of the built environment;</li> </ul> </li> <li>ii. communicating across the agencies involved in the promoting of</li> </ul>



	<p>awareness and understanding of architecture within the designed environment. The Department will report on the implementation of actions in this area to facilitate planning of future initiatives;</p> <p>iii. as part of the annual report process, carry out a mid-term report on the implementation of the Policy in 2012.</p>
<b>44</b>	<p>The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will establish a public authorities' historic buildings committee for the following purposes: to act as a means for information exchange; to organise seminars; to examine issues of common interest; and to co-ordinate guidance and advice in relation to care, maintenance and financing. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will require public authorities to establish in-house advisory groups to oversee the management and maintenance of the historic building resource.</p>
<b>45</b>	<p>The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will liaise with the City and County Managers Association with regard to the following:</p> <p>i. to establish how policy actions on architecture that impact at local authority level can be implemented within the timeframe of the Policy;</p> <p>ii. to establish a built environment forum with the collaboration of the City and County Managers Association to heighten awareness of the measures that can be taken to drive a quality agenda for urban design, architecture and architectural conservation, building control, and landscape design and conservation.</p>